



CIVIC

Council for International Visitors
Iowa Cities

THE CITIZEN DIPLOMAT

CIVIC's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2015

Visitor Recap: Since March of 2015, CIVIC has successfully hosted 8 programs and received 41 visitors from 19 countries and regions, including: India, Brazil, Australia, Thailand, Cote d'Ivoire, Estonia, Gaza Strip, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Argentina, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic, Liberia, Morocco, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

Programs Hosted:

Indigenous Youth Leadership; Youth Volunteerism; Competition and Anti-Trust Law; Mr. Matthias Kolb; Human Rights and Foreign Policy; Access for All: Enhancing the Lives of People with Disabilities; Good Governance and Refugee Services; Women's Health

What's New at CIVIC?

CIVIC launched its fundraising campaign at our opening **30 for 30** event, the July 21st Barn-Raising Supper. The **30 for 30 fundraising campaign aims to raise \$30,000** to celebrate our 30th anniversary this coming year and to secure our future by sustaining our current operational capacity and strengthening CIVIC's long-term financial security.

- Support CIVIC's operational capacity by visiting <http://iowacivic.org> and clicking on the donate button
- Strengthen CIVIC's long-term financial security by donating to our endowment fund through the Community Foundation of Johnson County at: <http://www.communityfoundationofjohnsoncounty.org/give/>

2015-2016 membership renewal letters will be mailed at the beginning of September. We're working to match your interests to CIVIC programming and to grow our base of citizen diplomats; please take the time to complete the membership form. Thank you!

Thank you to the following **CIVIC volunteers** for their help with these programs:

Newman Abuissa, Ken Atkinson, Liz Bergeron, Jennifer Blair, Peg Bouska, Mark Brookfield and Jane Murphy, Jon Buswell & Donna Chandler, Tammy Coverdale-Bauer, Greg Fletcher, Doug Hansel, Judith Higgs-Mayer, Devon Jensen, Robin & Judy Kash, Martha & Bob Kirby, Pathkonn Kombate, Jeanne Stoakes, Dave Tiffany, Jane & Ron McMullen, Alisa Meggitt, Jerry Nordquist, Harry Olmstead & Barbara Stein, Elena Osinskaya, Mark Osiel, Jacqueline Otting, Piragine, Ken Royar, Bob Royar, Andrey Sazonov, Don & Suzanne Kirchner, Jeffrey Ford & Lynette Marshall, and the CIVIC staff



Visitors celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with Representative Dave Loebsack

Visit Profile: Access for All

- Roundtable discussion and tour at the UI Hospitals Center for Disabilities and Development
- Meeting with City High faculty about teaching students with disabilities and the Best Buddies program.
- Meeting with Iowa City Council members to discuss local ADA legislation
- ADA 25th Anniversary celebration on the Ped-Mall in downtown Iowa City
- Visit to Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Home Hospitality with Harry Olmstead & Barbara Stein and Homestays with Don & Suzanne Kirchner, Robin & Judy Kash, and Jeffrey Ford & Lynette Marshall



30 for 30 Campaign Update:

Endowment: \$6000
Operations Fund: \$1090
Barn-Raising Event: \$2750

Human Rights IVLPs attended the Barn-Raising Supper



Member Profile

Marianne Weiss



Marianne Weiss was the Office Coordinator for CIVIC / ICFRC from September of 1997 until she retired in June of 2008. She continues to volunteer when she can work it into her schedule.

“How many friendships my years with CIVIC let me see; I’ve kept a scrap of each of them to make the whole of me! I’m still adding; as old as I might be today, I am younger than I will ever be.” -Marianne Weiss

Why did you join CIVIC?

While recovering from surgery, I saw an ad in the Iowa City Press Citizen newspaper from CIVIC looking for volunteers to meet with international visitors, something I was very interested in. So I started volunteering.

What do you enjoy about engaging with CIVIC?

I think it is the most wonderful opportunity for people in my community to engage with the international community. Being involved has two very important components—firstly, the opportunity to meet with visitors from all over the world and be able to engage with them is incredibly rewarding but also secondly, the ability to gain knowledge about all our marvelous resources here in Iowa City. I am still in contact with many people I have met through visits.

What visit has been your favorite and why?

The very first programming I did in 1997, not only in the office managing the logistics but also as an escort, was with a gentleman from the Czech Republic. Because my family is also from the Czech Republic, we had wonderful conversations talking about the Russian occupation and how things are different now. That was the first one-on-one contact I had with an international visitor through CIVIC; it was an incredible experience.

Connect

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Partners



Anatomy of a CIVIC Visit

Part II: The IVLP Network

The International Visitor Leadership Program relies on a national network to host visitors. Each IVLP project is assigned a program officer from the State Department as well as a National Program Agency (NPA). The program officers collaborate to plan the national program. CIVIC works with seven NPAs, including Meridian International Center and the Institute of International Education.

Each project is posted on the ORDIV, a secure State Department database. The database contains information about the project, such as the estimated number of visitors, the country or region, the designated NPA, and the project objectives. The CIVIC executive director, program coordinator, and interns search the ORDIV weekly for projects that are a good match for eastern Iowa’s professional resources.

CIVIC has access to the ORDIV through its affiliation with Global Ties US (formerly National Council of International Visitors--NCIV). The State Department contracts Global Ties US to maintain a network of about 90 volunteer community-based organizations like CIVIC across the country. Global Ties US also administers the State Department’s Community Partnership Grants (CPG), the annual grant that comprises the bulk of CIVIC’s funding. The State Department awards CPG grants to Global Ties US members based on a formula weighted heavily toward the number of visitors but that also factors in the number and type of project.

Once CIVIC staff has identified a potential project in the ORDIV, we query the appointed NPA program officer, requesting permission to submit a proposal. All programs typically include a visit to Washington D.C., often another eastern seaboard state, a visit to the West Coast, and one or two stops between the coastal cities. Not all projects are open for proposals. In some cases, either the nominating embassy, consulate, or the State Department program officer have specific cities in mind from the outset. In other cases, the NPA program officer invites us to submit a proposal in which we set forth myriad resources to demonstrate why eastern Iowa would make a significant contribution to the quality of the international visitors’ programming.

In the next issue, learn about what goes into CIVIC proposals and the first stages of planning an IVLP project.

Visitor Quote

“The hospitality of the community is beyond comprehension. I am very impressed of the reception and warmth of the people of Iowa.” -John Quaicoo (Ghana)
Human Rights and Foreign Policy Multi-Regional Project